

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19965 011627Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 SIL-01  
IO-13 /052 W

-----021191 012259Z /75-73

R 011547Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2274

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19965

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB EG US IS  
SUBJECT: U.S. VISIT OF SAAD AHMAD, LABOR FEDERATION  
- PRESIDENT/MINISTER OF MANPOWER

REFS: (A) CAIRO 19530, (B) TEL AVIV 9926

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EFL PRESIDENT/MINMANPOWER SAAD AHMAD, WHO WAS IN SADAT'S OFFICIAL PARTY IN JERUSALEM, ARRIVING WASHINGTON DECEMBER 4 TO BEGIN PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ATTENDANCE AT AFL-CIO'S NATIONAL CONVENTION. AM PLEASED WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT-RELATED ASPECTS OF ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR HIS VISIT, BUT WISH TO RAISE SEPARATE CONCERN HERE.

2. AHMAD EARLIER RECEIVED LETTER FROM GEORGE MEANY INVITING HIS ATTENDANCE AT CONVENTION AND FULLY EXPECTS THAT HE WILL HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH MEANY, ALTHOUGH HE IS AWARE OF, AND DISTURBED BY, PROSPECT THAT HIS LABOR CREDENTIALS WILL NOT BE DULY RECOGNIZED (REF A). I UNDERSTAND THAT AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR LEE, IN PARTICULAR, IS  
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LAR, MAY NOW BE RELUCTANT TO ARRANGE FOR SUCH AN APPOINTMENT IN VIEW OF AHMAD'S RECENT NOMINATION AS MINISTER.

3. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT URGE AFL-CIO TO BE FORTHCOMING IN THIS MATTER. IN FIRST PLACE, AHMAD AND EGYPTIAN LABOR HAVE BEEN UNSTINTING IN SUPPORT OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. THEY HAVE CUT TIES WITH ARAB RADICALS

AND AHMAD HIMSELF HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF BAGHDAD SPLEEN. EGYPTIANS WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, WHEN THEY SEE THEMSELVES WELL ON WAY TO SATISFYING AFL-CIO'S TRADITIONAL CONCERNS OVER EGYPT'S ATTITUDE, THEY SHOULD BE IGNORED BY GEORGE MEANY. ARGUMENTS ABOUT SEPARATION OF LABOR AND GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY NO WEIGHT WITH THEM, ESPECIALLY

BECAUSE EFL DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF DOMINATED BY GOVERNMENT AND KNOWS THAT AFL-CIO HAS CLOSE TIES WITH MANY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS LESS INDEPENDENT THAN ITSELF. IN ANY EVENT, AS FAR AS MIDDLE EAST ISSUE IS CONCERNED, AHMAD CLEARLY BELIEVES HE HAS SHOWN HIS BONA FIDES AND HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL EXPECT U.S. LABOR TO SHOW THEIRS.

4. IN SECOND PLACE, ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT AND THIS EMBASSY HAVE ALL BEEN SEIZED OF LATE WITH SEARCH, WITH EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE, FOR WAY TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. CONCERNS IN ILO. AHMAD'S OFFICE HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT ICFTU SECGEN KIRSTEN HOPES, AT CONVENTION, TO OBTAIN AHMAD SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO RESTORE U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN ILO. AHMAD SAID TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING. GOE, OF WHICH AHMAD NOW A MEMBER, WILL LISTEN WITH SOME INTEREST TO REPORT OF HIS CONTACTS WITH U.S. LABOR. AHMAD, TOO, WILL HAVE MORE INPUT ON GOE'S ILO POLICY. THESE FACTS SUGGEST IT POSSIBLE THAT HIS TRIP WILL COLOR GOE FUTURE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ILO.

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5. FINALLY, HISTADRUT PLEASURE WITH SADAT INITIATIVE IS CLEAR EVEN IF ORGANIZATION MAY BE TOO OPTIMISTIC ON EARLY TIES WITH EGYPTIAN LABOR (REF B). POINT, HOWEVER, IS THAT HISTADRUT APPARENTLY AND INCONGRUOUSLY SEEMS MORE SATISFIED WITH AHMAD AS LABOR LEADER AND PEACEMAKER THAN AFL-CIO APPEARS TO BE.

6. BELIEVE IT IN OUR INTEREST TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO MAKE AHMAD U.S. VISIT A SUCCESS. AFL-CIO NEED NOT SACRIFICE PRINCIPLE OF GOVERNMENT-LABOR SEPARATION NOR CONSIDER ITSELF UNDER PRESSURE TO INSTITUTE FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH EFL AT THIS TIME, BUT IT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE MINIMAL GESTURE OF APPOINTMENT WITH MEANY. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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